



# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AL GORE JOINS GROWING CONSENSUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY, AGUIRRE SAYS SDG&E MUST MOVE FASTER**

*City Attorney Notes Local Utility is Deriving Just 6 percent of its Power from Renewables*

**San Diego, CA**—Former Vice President Al Gore's call today in Washington D.C., for the nation to derive 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources within ten years adds to a growing chorus who believe the United States can and must rapidly transition to clean, new energy systems, said City Attorney Michael Aguirre.

But Aguirre added that the growing sense of urgency for moving away from polluting fossil fuels contrasts with the record of local utility, San Diego Gas & Electric, which has fallen far behind in tapping renewable sources of electricity.

SDG&E is deriving just 6 percent of its electricity from renewables, or less than half the level achieved by California's other major investor-owned utilities

"Even worse, SDG&E says it's unlikely to satisfy the California mandate that requires utilities to derive 20 percent of their electricity from renewables by 2010," Aguirre remarked. "Our franchise agreement with SDG&E requires it to be in compliance with all state laws and I intend to enforce that agreement rigorously."

A recent report from the City Attorney, *California's Renewable Energy Mandate in Peril: San Diego Gas & Electric Must Do More to Reach 20 Percent Renewable Energy by 2010* (Interim Report #32), concluded that SDG&E's effort to develop renewables has been "incomplete at best and intentionally compromised at worst."

The report also noted that while SDG&E has developed or contracted for a minimal level of renewables, its parent company, Sempra Energy, has developed an extensive array of natural gas projects in the region. This contradicts the purpose of California's renewable initiative, which seeks to reduce the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels.

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Aguirre is also concerned about the commitment of California's Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) to hold utilities responsible for complying with the state's 20 percent renewable mandate. Last Friday, PUC President Michael Peevey appeared with SDG&E at a news conference on renewable energy and made remarks that could be interpreted as conceding that SDG&E would fail to reach the 20 percent mandate.

The City Attorney believes that SDG&E must continue to make all reasonable efforts to comply. In a letter to Peevey, Aguirre states, "I sincerely hope your comments are not misinterpreted to indicate any weakening of the PUC's intent to enforce the mandate."

To view the letter to PUC President Peevey, visit [www.sandiegocityattorney.org](http://www.sandiegocityattorney.org), click "Significant Reports and Legal Documents." To read Interim Report No. 32, click "City Attorney Interim Reports."

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